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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Phone: Victor 3755, Ext. 282

Tuesday, February 20, 1940



KANSAS CITY PRAIRIE HAY MARKET

Receipts of prairie hay at Kansas City the past week were 4 cars, compared with only 1 the previous week, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Two fancy quality cars were taken by local feeding interests. One load went to a shipper and one ordinary quality car remained unsold. Quotations generally remained unchanged.

A few cars of prairie hay were received direct by local feeding interests, which with ample storage reserves, limited the interest of such buyers in open market offerings. Moderate movement of cattle through the Kansas City market did not call for large feed requirements. Shipping orders for prairie were limited to occasional scattered cars from western Kansas buyers, the western demand being cared for to a large extent by truck movement. Prairie hay was moving in larger volume from the Platte Valley of Nebraska at from \$5 to \$6 per ton, loose in the stack, according to trade reports. Movement was mostly by truck to feeders within the state and in northern Kansas.

The cattle population on farms in the United States January 1, 1940, totaled 68,769,000 head, or 3% larger than a year earlier. Most of the increase was noted in the states bordering the Mississippi River and eastward. Rather sharp reductions in numbers in Texas and in several Western States tended to offset general increases in other states in the Great Plains and Western regions. Milk cows (cows and heifers 2 years old and over kept for milk) totaled 25,334,000 head, an increase of about 1 percent.

A total of 54,473,000 head of sheep was estimated on farms January 1, an increase of 1% over the 53,783,000 reported a year previous. The largest increases were reported in the native sheep states.

The estimated number of horses, including colts, on farms decreased 2% the past year to 10,616,000 head on January 1, 1940. The estimates also indicated a further decline during 1939 in the number of colts foaled. Mules numbered 4,321,000 head, a decrease of about 1½%. The number of mule colts under 1 year, however, was larger than a year earlier and the largest since 1927.

Sales of prairie at Kansas City for the week: No. 1, 2 cars \$8.50, 1 car \$8 per ton.

Current quotations, basis U. S. Standards, are as follows:

UPLAND PRAIRIE

No. 1	\$8.00-8.50
No. 2	7.50-8.00
No. 3	5.50-7.00
Sample	4.00-5.50

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